

11 September 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 11 September 1957

PRESENT: Mr. Cutler, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Hollister, Mr. Murphy,
Mr. Scribner, Mr. Smith, Mr. Sprague, Admiral
Strauss, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Melbourne

1. Request for Suggestions for Reader's Digest Article

Mr. Cutler said that William L. White, Roving Editor of the Reader's Digest, had approached him for advice in the selection of a topic for a Digest article. Mr. White wants to choose a topic which could be of assistance to the Administration. Three possible subjects were proposed: (a) an exposition of the essence of the United States proposals on disarmament, (b) a popular presentation of the objectives and execution of our foreign aid programs, and (c) a popular treatment of the origin, necessity and practical workings of the Status of Forces agreements around the world.

Mr. Cutler thought these proposals had merit and said that if any of the participating agencies had further suggestions they could be given to Mr. Melbourne by the end of this week, at which time Mr. Cutler expects to see Mr. White again.

2. Announcement of Impending Nuclear Tests

Admiral Strauss asked for consideration of the pros and cons of an early announcement of the American intention to conduct nuclear tests at the Pacific testing grounds, beginning in April. He pointed out that the announcement must be made not later than sixty days before the beginning of the tests, in order to allow sufficient time to insure adequate safety measures in the area; and that the movement of men and materiel through West Coast ports would start in October and from that point on there would be a

continuing possibility of rumors and leaks. He said that in the light of these factors, among others, he would like to see the announcement made within the next seven to ten days--that is before the UN General Assembly goes into its next regular session, where a number of anti-testing resolutions are scheduled to be tabled.

Mr. Murphy said he felt that it might be preferable to delay the announcement until about January, but he had no really strenuous objection to having it made in the near future. Mr. Washburn commented on the difficulties of making such an announcement at any time, from the point of view of the propaganda light in which it places the US; he felt in effect that there would be no basic difference in USIA's task whether the announcement were made sooner or later.

Mr. Murphy will discuss the matter with the Secretary of State, probably this evening. The official State Department view will then be communicated to Admiral Strauss for his assistance in presenting the question to the President for decision as to timing.

The OCB Working Group on Nuclear Energy will be instructed to review proposed language for the announcement, whenever it is to be made.


ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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